

Maine Department of Conservation
Bureau of Parks and Lands

NORTHERN AROOSTOOK MANAGEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC MEETING ON FINAL DRAFT
May 11, 2007, 6:00 – 8:30 pm
Ashland Central School, Ashland, Maine

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Advisory Committee Members Present

Dave Basley – Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (Fisheries Division)
Dan Bridgman – Maine Snowmobile Association.
Mike Brophy – Red River Camps (Deboullie Unit)
Diano Circo – Natural Resources Council of Maine
Richard Clark – Abutting Landowner, Town of Perham Planning Board
Will Harris, Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands
Vern Labbe, BP&L, Northern Region Lands
Jim Nadeau, Town of Eagle Lake
Gary Pelletier – Friends of Allagash
Ben Ricciardi – Eagle Lake Camps
John Titus, BP&L, Management Plan Coordinator
Brooke Wilkerson, Maine Natural Areas Program

4 other members of the public and 5 Bureau staff were in attendance

Welcome and Introductions – Will Harris, Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands

Summary of Plan Issues and Recommendations (Power Point Presentation) – John Titus and Vern Labbe

Public Comments:

DEBOULLIE UNIT

- On page 38, under Special Protection Recommendations, it talks about monitoring trail access on the talus slopes – this should be clarified to not infer snowmobiles as the trail users.
- The Plan needs to clarify how snowmobile access onto the ponds is accomplished.
- The page 40, the recommendation to provide a travel surface over Pushineer dam should also indicate that other options should be explored should the Pushineer dam option not prove feasible.
- Will the travel surface proposed on Pushineer Dam support transporting timber products? *Response: it shouldn't need to as we have another way to get out the timber from this portion of the Unit. We should probably think about it though, as that might become important at some time in the future.*
- We have had a hard time understanding how the Bureau went from protecting 1,000 acres to protecting 7,400 acres as Ecological Reserves. The local area people should have been involved in that decision. *Response: The authority for the state to designate Ecological Reserves was established in 2000, and the 7,400 acres at Deboullie were designated at that time. There has been no change in these acres since then. It was determined at that time that the Reserve acres and boundaries would be looked at again when the management plan was revised, which is what we are doing now.*
- Was there a “fiscal note” drawn up when the Bureau lost 3,500 timber acres to Ecological Reserves? *Response: No, we consider the designation of Reserves part of the Bureaus multiple use management responsibilities. Some land is used for timber, some for recreation, and some are protected as Reserves as in the case of Deboullie.*

- On page 38, change the management recommendation so that it says “the land around the ponds” rather than “the area around the ponds.” Area could still imply managing open water, which is not the Bureau’s responsibility.
- We (NRCM) recommend that you not change the southern boundary of the Ecological Reserve any more than what is absolutely necessary to accommodate the existing drive-to public access.
- The Plan, for future reference, should indicate where there is potential for additional Ecological Reserve acres, even though you are not adding these acres now.
- You should also identify potential nonmechanized backcountry areas as well, like the area on the northeast area of the Unit, identified as an AMC “roadless” area.
- Would you be spraying for budworm in the Ecological Reserves when there is another outbreak?
Response: Yes, the policy states that insect and disease outbreaks and fire will be controlled in Reserves, mostly due to the threat to nearby lands.
- Would you salvage blowdowns in the Reserves as a result of a wind storm? *Response: No, this would be considered a natural process for which the Bureau would not do any management.*
- It would be helpful to have a complete inventory of the road system on the Unit, along with a history of how the roads got there, and what they were used for (as was done recently for the Bigelow Preserve). Once completed, you can then make decisions as to what roads should stay open and why.

EAGLE LAKE UNIT

- Will the Plan allow over-the-road access by clients of Eagle Lake Camps? *Response: We consider this an operational matter that can be worked out apart from the management plan.*
- The Bureau should consider removing the gate to Eagle Lake Camps. *Response: if the gate no longer serves its original purpose, the Bureau would be glad to consider changing the lease language that addresses the current need for the gate.*

SALMON BROOK LAKE BOG

- Would it be possible to make some adjustments to the Ecological Reserve boundaries, as there are acres that should have been added, and acres that could come out? *Response: We could, but we need to be careful otherwise it disrupts the monitoring program set up for the Reserves. It would be helpful to have updated maps as to the areas to be added and/or removed.*
- There is possible access from the east side of the Unit the Bureau wants to take a closer look at.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- You should make note in the Plan of your Forest Certification Program as this is a very important component of your timber management. *Response: it is referenced in the Appendix but a brief explanation of this in the Plan might be helpful.*
- You should address the financial impact from setting aside lands that would otherwise be used for timber management. Where will you make up the difference?

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.